IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 2 at page 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A1

The format converter 5 comprises n first to n-th interface sections 11 (hereinafter called simply "interface sections 11" when they are dealt with as a whole), a transfer section 12, m first to m-th converter sections 13 (hereinafter simply called "converter sections 13" when they are dealt with as a whole), and a route control section 14.

Please replace paragraph 5 at page 14 continuing onto page 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2

Conversion processing performed by the converter sections 13 includes rate conversion of moving picture data of MPEG2 format, resolution conversion, frame rate conversion, color and luminance signal conversion, and sampling rate conversion. Further, the conversion processing includes processing for converting a signal of NTSC (National Television System Committee) system into data of MPEG format. Also, the conversion processing includes data conversion between the N-type interface sections 11 and the non-N-type interface sections 11. Also, the conversion processing includes processing for transmitting data inputted through the non-N-type interface sections 11 ~~from a disc device to the network~~, such as format conversion from the disc interface to the network interface.

Please replace paragraph 1 at page 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A3

The route control section 14 transmits/receives information concerning the format converters 5 and the interface sections 11 described above, to determine the communication route R of the transmitted data. For example, explanation will be made with reference to the network system constructed by six communication nodes, as shown in FIG. 10A. The network system shown in FIG. 10A is comprised of first to sixth communication nodes. The first node is a server apparatus 1 which transmits transmitting data containing moving picture data of format A. The second communication node is a format converter 5 which converts data of format B into format C. The third communication node is a format converter 5 which converts data of format

[redacted] into format B. The fourth communication node is a format converter 5 having a function of converting data of format A into format B and a function of converting data of format B into format C. The fifth communication node is a normal router. The sixth node is a receiver terminal which receives data of format C ~~B~~.

Please replace paragraph 2 at page 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

That is, in accordance with the route control protocol, the route control section 14 of each communication node uses above-described format conversion parameters and communication network parameters which are exchanged with another communication node to construct a network topology as an image graph shown in FIG. 10A and to add dynamic and static information concerning the communication nodes and the network system as parameters of vertices ~~vertexes~~ and branches. Based on the image graph of the network system thus constructed, a route is determined by using predetermined algorithm. In the route control sections 14, determinations of routes at respective communication nodes are matched with each other and data is correctly sent from the transmitter side to the receiver side as long as the image graphs constructed in all communication nodes are equal to each other and routes are determined by one same algorithm.

Please replace paragraph 2 at page 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The communication network parameter is a measure for evaluating a route or the like which causes the least delay or which applies the least load to the network system. This parameter is used as a measure for selecting an appropriate route referring to the static and dynamic states of the network system and the static and dynamic states of the format converters 5.

Please replace paragraph 2 at page 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the case shown in FIG. 13, the route control section 14 obtains a communication route R21 from the first communication node (1A) to the sixth communication node (6C), on which

[redacted]he metric is smallest with A as a starting format, and a communication route R22 from the first communication node (1B) to the sixth communication node (6C), on which the metric is the smallest with B as a starting format, in the image graph after conversion. The route control section 14 further selects a communication route which has the smaller metric among the two communication routes.

Please replace paragraph 3 at page 31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The route control section 14 can also determine a route while reserving network resources, for example, by a combination with resource reservation ~~reserve~~ protocol, even in case of performing route control under condition that a communication node possesses only partial information or incorrect information.